

NYTimes JAN 1 1974 JAN 1 1974
**Paper Retracts Article Linking
Chotiner to Watergate Bugging**

MANCHESTER, N. H., Dec. 31 (UPI) — The Manchester Union Leader today printed a front-page retraction of charges that President Nixon's long-time associate, Murray Chotiner, organized the Watergate bugging incident.

Mr. Chotiner had sued the newspaper and its chief investigative reporter, Arthur C. Egan, for \$3-million for libel.

The articles over which he brought suit said he organized the "Watergate caper" and similar incidents with money raised from the Teamsters Union and with more than \$400,000 from "Las Vegas gamblers."

In Washington, Mr. Chotiner said he had reached an out-of-court settlement with the newspaper. He said the terms of the agreement called for him to be paid a "substantial amount" of money, but he declined to say how much.

The Union Leader this morning carried a three-column box directly under a banner headline saying: "A Retraction and Apology to Murray Chotiner."

The article said the newspaper "retracts the allegations contained in articles by reporter Arthur C. Egan Jr., published in its April 27 and April 28, 1973 editions charging attorney Murray M. Chotiner with having organized the Watergate activities. . . . All such accusations against Mr. Chotiner are false."

The Union Leader in its April stories said gambling interests in Las Vegas had made campaign contributions to stave off indictments because the Justice Department "had gathered evidence that the Teamsters pension fund had loaned nearly \$36-million to Las Vegas gamblers."

The paper said in April that the Teamster contributions were made not to win quick release for the imprisoned former Teamster President, James R. Hoffa, but "to make sure that Hoffa remained in a Federal prison and away from Teamster Union business."

The Union Leader publisher, William Loeb, is a strong Hoffa supporter. Since 1962, the Teamsters pension fund has held a \$2-million mortgage on Union Leader property, which the paper says is partly repaid.